This public document was published at a total cost of \$13,959.80. 20,000 copies of this public document were published in this first printing at a cost of \$13,959.80. The total cost of all printings of this document, including reprints is \$13,959.80. This document was published by Patriot Purchasing, Inc. 105 Hantsport Sq. Lafayette, LA 70508 to provide information to Veterans, their families, and Veteran Organizations concerning laws and regulations about various state and federal benefits and programs pertaining to the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs under authority of LA R.S. 36:784. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes

> Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs P.O. Box 94095 Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Phone: (225) 219-5000 Fax: (225)219-5590 vetaffairs.la.gov



Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs

2013 Guide to Veterans' Benefits











1-877-GEAUX-VA (1-877-432-8982) vetaffairs.la.gov





Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs Staff



Notes

David LaCerte
Interim Secretary

Amy Cannizaro Burris Deputy Chief of Staff

Robin Keller Communications Director

> Mike McNaughton Director of Outreach

Robert Hayes, Deputy Assist. Secretary/Finance Kevin Butler, Deputy Assist. Secretary/Veterans Homes Al Leger, Deputy Assist. Secretary/Benefits Danny Garris, Regional Director/Cemetery Programs Dustin Guy, Human Resources Director Bill Dixon, State Approving Agency Director Don Howard, Troops to Teachers Regional Director

> vetaffairs.la.gov 1-877-GEAUX-VA (1-877-432-8982)

Vet Centers

Baton Rouge Vet Center 5207 Essen Park, Suite 2 Baton Rouge, LA 70809 (225) 761-3440

Kenner Vet Center 2200 Veterans Blvd., Suite 114 Kenner, LA 70062 (504) 565-4977

> Shreveport Vet Center 2800 Youree Drive Building 1, Suite, 105 Shreveport, LA 71104 (318) 861-1776

Rapides Parish Vet Center 5803 Coliseum Blvd., Suite D Alexandria, LA 70303 (318) 466-4327 1-877-927-8387



Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs Table of Contents



I. Intro	duction Message from Governor Bobby Message from Secretary David Louisiana Veterans Affairs Com Eligibility Criteria	LaCerte3 mission4
II. Stat	te Contacts Louisiana Department of Vetera Parish Service Offices	ans Affairs6-19
III. Prog	grams and Services Education	
IV. Vet	terans Service Organizations	55-56
\/ E oc	deral Contacts	57-60



Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal

On behalf of the people of Louisiana, I want to thank you for your service to our great state and country. Louisiana has a proud military history and a strong tradition of honoring Veterans. We have a duty to honor and care for the men and women who courageously joined the armed services to protect us and fight for the many freedoms we enjoy in our country. I am proud to say that Louisiana's commitment to our Veterans as well as our active-duty and reserve-duty service members is as strong as ever.

Information on many important benefits including Veteran designation on LA driver's licenses, in-state tuition status for Veterans and active-duty military who attend LA public colleges and universities, transfer of military skills to civilian employment certification, and more are contained within this guide. I encourage you to use this resource to ensure you obtain all the state and federal Veterans benefits available. I have charged the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs with the vital mission of serving all 300,000 Louisiana Veterans and their families.

I want to thank those of you currently serving in our armed forces and of course, our Veterans. Thank you for your service and for dedicating your life to a cause beyond yourself. Thank you for believing in our state, our security and our freedoms. And most of all, thank you for believing in Louisiana.

319 Memphis Street Bogalusa, LA 70427 (985) 735-9029

2100 Jefferson St, Suite 102A Lafayette, LA 70501 337-261-0734

1131 South Morrison Ave Hammond, LA 70403 985-902-5100

1750 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, Suite 107 Houma, LA 70360 985-851-0188

> 250 DeSiard Plaza Dr Monroe, LA 71203 800-832-3525; 318-343-6100

> > 4004 West Airline Hwy Reserve, LA 70084 985-479-6770

60491 Doss Drive Slidell, LA 70460 985-690-2626

Natchitoches Community Based Outpatient Clinic 740 Keyser Avenue Natchitoches, LA 71457 (318) 357-3300

VA Regional Office

1250 Poydras Street, Ste. 200 New Orleans, LA 70113 1-800-827-1000

VA Medical Centers

VA Medical Center, Alexandria 2495 Shreveport Highway Pineville, LA 71306 (318) 473-0010 1-800-375-8387

Southeast LA Veterans Health Care System 1601 Perdido Street New Orleans, LA 70112 1-800-935-8387

> VA Medical Center, Shreveport 510 E. Stoner Avenue Shreveport, LA 71101 (318) 221-8411 1-800-863-7441

VA Outpatient Clinics

7968 Essen Park Ave. Baton Rouge, LA 70809 (225) 761-3400

1907 Johnson St. Jennings, LA 70546 (337)824-1000

3353 University Parkway Leesville, LA 71446 (337) 392-3801

603 Halfleigh Street Franklin, LA 70538 (337) 828-9092



Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary David LaCerte

As Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (LDVA), it is my pleasure to present the 2013 Guide to Veterans Benefits. Enclosed you will find information on the many benefits and services available to Veterans and their families as well as a full listing of LDVA Parish Service Offices. Located in parishes across Louisiana, these offices ensure that the Veterans of our state continue to receive the help they need right in their local communities. Services provided at LDVA parish offices are available to all Louisiana Veterans and their immediate family members.

Maintaining these offices is just one of the many ways LDVA supports Louisiana Veterans. Whether its through our five state-of-the-art Veterans Homes located across the state, at our Veterans Cemeteries located in north and central Louisiana, through the Military Family Assistance Fund and the LAVETBIZ business initiative, or through the Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal program, LDVA is here to serve the heroes of our state.

Thank you for your honorable service to our country. I look forward to working with you as we strive to fulfill the LDVA mission of providing comprehensive care and quality service to Louisiana's veterans and families with regard to health care, education, disability benefits, long-term care and burial honors.



Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs Commission

Mr. Don A. Beasley Chairman Representing Disabled American Veterans

William "Bill" Detweiler Representing American Legion

> Mr. Rudy Bourg Representing AMVETS

Mr. Richard L. Garner Representing Military Order of the Purple Heart

> Mr. Russell J. Henry Representing American Legion

Mr. Carroll J. Knott Representing Veterans of Foreign Wars

Ms. Sulanda V. Lonnette At Large Member

Mr. Lee Richard Representing Disabled American Veterans

Ms. Precilla L. Wilkewitz Representing Veterans of Foreign Wars



U.S. Department Of Veterans Affairs

Federal VA Health Care va.gov/health 1-877-222-8387

The Veterans Health Administration website provides information on health care benefits, health programs, facility locations, and patient information. VA also provides nursing home services to Veterans through three national programs: VA owned and operated nursing homes; state owned and operated Veterans homes; and the community nursing home program.

The Louisiana Department of Disabled American Veterans operates several vans around the state to assist Veterans who need help getting to VA medical appointments. For information about van pick-up sites in their area, contact:

- In Alexandria, LA: hospital service coordinator, 1-800-375-8387 ext. 12709
- <u>In Shreveport, LA:</u> hospital service coordinator at 1-800-863-7441 ext. 17025

Louisiana Veterans Coalition

Robert Griffith, Secretary/PIO 1786 Glendale Road DeRidder, LA 70634 (337) 208-8742

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Precilla Wilkewitz, Department Adjutant 10185 Mammoth Avenue Baton Rouge, LA 70814 225/928-5025 lavfw@aol.com

Blue Star Mothers/Gold Star Mothers

Linda Furr P.O. Box 318110 Baton Rouge, LA 70831 Phone: (225) 683-5071

OEF/OIF

Eleanor Chapitol 1515 Poydras St., Ste. 1280 New Orleans, LA 70112 (504) 566-8478

Vietnam Veterans of America

Dennis Andras 3505 Lake Arrowhead Harvey, LA 70058 (504) 382-0682

Korean War Veterans

James Morrison 5811 Dutton Ave. Baton Rouge, LA 70805 (225) 357-3815

PVA

Wayne Blackwell 29655 Prokop Rd. Albany, LA 70711 (985) 974-2558

National Association of Atomic Veterans

Rodney Lee Guidry, LA State Commander 3917 Highway 28 East Pineville, LA 71360-5412 (318) 473-9683



Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for most Louisiana state Veterans' benefits, programs or services, a Veteran must first establish general eligibility. Criteria, including exceptions to minimum military service requirements, is set in state law per LA Revised Statutes, Chapter 29.

General eligibility consists of two broad requirements:

- 1. Military Service (character; type; duration)
- 2. Louisiana state residency

NOTE: specific programs and/or benefits may have additional requirements.

Veterans with other than honorable discharges may be eligible for LDVA benefits if they qualify for certain federal benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Spouses and dependents of deceased Veterans who meet LDVA eligibility requirements may also be eligible for certain programs and services.

Visit vetaffairs.la.gov or call toll-free 1-877-GEAUX-VA (1-877-432-8982) to learn more.



Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs

The mission of Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs is to provide comprehensive care and quality service to Louisiana's Veterans and their families with regard to health care, education, disability benefits, long-term care, and burial honors.

LDVA supports its mission through a variety of programs and services such as:

- Veterans Parish Service Offices located across Louisiana
- Five state-of-the-art Veterans Homes located across the state
- Two Veterans Cemeteries, one in Keithville near Shreveport and the other in central Louisiana at Leesville with construction underway for the Southeast Louisiana location in Slidell, set to open in 2014
- LAVETBIZ, an initiative to support Veteran and Disabled Veteran-owned small businesses
- Military Family Assistance Fund (MFA) to provide financial support to members of the Louisiana National Guard and Military Reserves
- Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal

You will find more information about these and other programs later in this guide. 6



Veterans Service Organization

The American Legion

Mathew Farlow, Department Adjutant 602 North 5th Street Baton Rouge, LA 70802 (225) 219-1945 adjutant@lalegion.org

AMVETS

Marion Polk 3409 England Drive Alexandria, LA 71301 (318) 308-6500

American Ex-Prisoners of War

Beth Dawson, Department Commander 4657 Highway 68 Jackson, LA 70748 (225) 654-9653

Disabled American Veterans

Charles Holdeman, Department Adjutant 602 North 5th Street Baton Rouge, LA 70802 (225) 219-1046 adjutant@davdol.org

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Richard Garner 111Falcon Drive Bossier City, LA 71111 (318) 746-5724



Other Programs

Military Family Assistance Fund (MFA)

Provides assistance to members of the Louisiana National Guard or Reserves and their families to help address financial hardships experienced when they are placed on active-duty status for 30 or more consecutive days. To learn more, donate to MFA or to apply for funds, please visit vetaffairs.la.gov/mfa or call toll free 1-877-GEAUX-VA.

Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal Program

Authorized by the 2008 Louisiana Legislature as a way to honor, thank and recognize Louisiana Veterans for their honorable military service. To learn more or to apply for your Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal, please visit vetaffairs.la.gov/medals or call toll free 1-877-GEAUX-VA.

LA Welcome Home Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

LDVA welcomes all returning service members home from their service to our country with information on available services and benefits and participates in the Department of Defense Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.



Veterans Parish Service Offices

The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs maintains Veterans Parish Service Offices throughout Louisiana, ensuring Louisiana Veterans and their families receive the assistance they need right in their local community.

Offices are staffed by LDVA Veterans Assistance Counselors (VAC) who are trained and certified through U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to assist Veterans with all aspects of their federal and state benefits.

VACs are usually a Veteran's first point of contact for benefits and eligibility questions. All information remains strictly confidential.

Veterans are encouraged to make a permanent copy of their Certificate of Release or Discharge (DD214) from active duty by recording it with their home parish courthouse. Louisiana law protects the confidentiality of discharge papers.

Following is a complete listing of all LDVA Veterans Parish Service Offices.

LDVA Veterans Parish Service Offices

Acadia

601 N. Parkerson Ave Crowley, LA 70526 Phone: 337-788-7539

Fax: 337-788-4987 Email: dvacrow@bellsouth.net

Allen

105 N. Fifth Street Oberlin, LA 70655 Phone: 337-639-4370

Email: evangeline101@centurytel.net

Ascension (Main)

828 S. Irma Blvd., Room 104 Courthouse Annex. East Gonzales, LA 70737 Phone: 225-644-7475 Fax: 225-647-6917 Email: aposova@eatel.net

Ascension (Itinerant)

300 Houma Street Courthouse Building Donaldsonville, LA 70346 Phone: 225-474-2001 Email: aposova@eatel.net

Assumption

4751 Hwy. 1 Napoleonville, LA 70390 Phone: 985-369-6335 Fax: 985-369-6058

Email: dvanapo@bellsouth.net

Avovelles

312 N. Main Street, Ground Floor Marksville, LA 71351 Phone: 318-253-9437 Fax: 318-253-7996

Email: johnaymond@bellsouth.net

Office Hours & Staff

M-W-F 8:00 a.m.— 4:30 p.m.

Brian Martin

Office Hours & Staff

Tuesday; 1st & 3rd Thurs 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Cecil Joubert

Office Hours & Staff

M-W-TH-F (closed Wed) 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Stephen Henry

Office Hours & Staff

Tuesday 8:45 a.m.—3:45 p.m. Stephen Henry

Office Hours & Staff

M-W-F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Dudley LeBlanc

Office Hours & Staff

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. John Aymond

- Gold Star Family License Plates: Available to immediate family members of armed forces members who were killed in action. The plate is issued in the same manner as other motor vehicle license plates. The applicant must present a copy of the service member's death certificate to the DMV. The charge for the plate is the same as for regular license plates and includes a handling fee of \$3.50.
- Special Prestige License Plates for Certain Veterans and Retirees: The Louisiana Legislature has authorized the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue prestige license plates to certain Louisiana Veterans and retired military veterans. These plates will be Issued for use on any privately owned passenger car, pickup truck, or van of the veteran applicant. The cost of these plates is the same as the regular issue.
- Please visit http:\\omv.dps.state.la.us for a full listing of all available Veteran Louisiana license plates.

Hunting and Fishing Privileges: Free hunting and fishing licenses are offered to Louisiana Veterans with a 50% or higher service-connected permanent disability. Louisiana also grants resident status to active-duty service members when purchasing hunting and fishing licenses. Applications may be obtained and certified at LDVA Veterans Parish Service Offices.

Free Entrance to State Parks: Eligible Veterans are exempt from paying the day-use entrance fee to any Louisiana state park. Applications for this exemption may be obtained by contacting LDVA Veterans Parish Service Offices.

53 8



Licensing & **Sportsman**

Veteran designation on LA Driver's License

Veterans can now indicate their Veteran status on their LA driver's license, available through Louisiana State Office of Motor Vehicle locations. Proof of Veteran status required.

Discounts on LA Driver's License and ID fees

Veterans may qualify for special discounts or waivers on fees for LA Driver's Licenses and ID's, contact Louisiana State Office of Motor Vehicles at (225) 925-6146 or your local LDVA parish service office for details.

"Support our Veterans" Louisiana License Plate

Available for purchase for a one-time fee of \$25 at all Louisiana State Office of Motor Vehicle locations, online at expresslane.org or by calling (225) 925-6146. Proceeds go to the Military Family Assistance Fund.

Other Specialty Louisiana License Plates

- Purple Heart Plates: free to recipients of the Purple Heart Medal; issued in lieu of the regular Louisiana state plates. Recipients may be issues plates for each vehicle registered in his/her name. Plates are not subject to renewal requirements applicable to regular numbered plates.
- Disabled Veterans Plates: Free Disabled American Veteran (DAV) plates are available to any Louisiana Veteran who is at least 50% service-connected disabled.
- "X POW" Plates: Free upon application to any former prisoner of war in lieu of the regular Louisiana license plates. These plates feature "X POW" followed by an assigned number and are not subject to renewal requirements by the Louisiana Department of Public Safety.

52

Beauregard

250 West 7th Street War Memorial Civic Center DeRidder, LA 70634 Phone: 337-463-7305

Email: dvaleesv@bellsouth.net

Bienville

100 Courthouse Dr., Room 122 Courthouse Building Arcadia, LA 71001 Phone: 318-263-7419

Fax: 318-263-7445

Email: bruce.parker@vetaffairs.la.gov

Bossier

2292 Barksdale Blvd. Bossier City, LA 71112 Phone: 318-741-8391/8392

Fax: 318-741-7470

Emails: dvaboss@bellsouth.net or

Caddo

1031 Creswell Ave. Shreveport, LA 71101 Phone: 318-676-7540 Fax: 318-676-7555

Calcasieu

1000 Ryan Street, Ground Floor Courthouse Lake Charles, LA 70601

Phone: 337-491-2309 Fax: 337-491-2374

Email: chuckdavidson@bellsouth.net

Caldwell

201 Main Street Courthouse, 2nd Floor Columbia, LA 71418 Phone: 318-649-2552

Fax: 318-649-2552

Email: kfscott@bellsouth.net

Office Hours & Staff

Tues & Thurs 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Yurie Crockett

Office Hours & Staff

Tues & Thurs 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Bruce Parker

Office Hours & Staff

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Harold Swanson Kara Jackson

kjackson@nwlwvh.com

Office Hours & Staff

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Robert Petrus Barry Robinson

Emails: bobpetrus@bellsouth.net or dvacadd@bellsouth.net

Office Hours & Staff

M through F 8:00 a/m.—4:30 p.m. Chuck Davidson Josh Miller

Office Hours & Staff

M-W-F

8:00 a/m.—4:30 p.m.

Kay Scott

Cameron

Courthouse Basement Cameron, LA 70631 Phone: 337-775-5553

Email: chuckdavidson@bellsouth.net

Catahoula

108 Sicily Street Harrisonburg Town Hall Harrisonburg, LA 71340 Phone: 318-744-5601

Email: cckimball@bellsouth.net

Claiborne

507 West Main Police Jury Building Homer, LA 71040 Phone: 318-927-3077

Fax: 318-927-4809

Email: bruce.parker@vetaffairs.la.gov

Concordia

109 Doty Road Ferriday, LA 71334 Phone: 318-757-4952 Fax: 318-757-7159

DeSoto

101 Texas Street, Courthouse Mansfield, LA 71052 Phone: 318-872-4325 Fax: 318-872-7538

Email: dvasabi@bellsouth.net

E. Baton Rouge

4560 North Blvd., Ste. 116 Medical Center Plaza, East Baton Rouge, LA 70806 Phone: 225-925-7268 Fax: 225-925-7270

Emails: ldvaebr@bellsouth.net or coleman.tony43@yahoo.com

Office Hours & Staff

3rd Wednesday 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Chuck Davidson

Office Hours & Staff

Thursday

8:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Charles C.C. Kimball

Office Hours & Staff

M-W-F

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Bruce Parker

Office Hours & Staff

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Charles C.C. Kimball

Email: cckimball@bellsouth.net

Office Hours & Staff

Tues & Thurs 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Pamela Russell

Office Hours & Staff

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Earnest Buckner C."Tony" Coleman

Military Family Assistance Fund

State taxpayers can support Louisiana's National Guard and Reserve members called to active-duty on individual state income tax forms. For those interested in contributing to the Military Family Assistance Fund, there is a designated donation line on the tax form or by calling (225) 219-5000. Donations provide financial assistance for hardships created by the activation of National Guard and Reserve members.

Louisiana National Guard Death/Disability Benefit

Louisiana National Guardsmen suffering a permanent and total disability while on federal or state active duty on or after September 11, 2001, or the beneficiary of record of those killed in action may qualify for a \$250,000 death benefit or \$100,000 disability benefit from the State of Louisiana (restrictions apply). To receive a claim form and more information. applicants including beneficiaries of record of Louisiana National Guardsmen who were killed in action should contact:

> Louisiana National Guard Attn. The Adjutant General Building 305 F Street Camp Beauregard, LA 71360



Tax Benefits

Special Property Assessment

The property value assessment (for the residential property receiving the

homestead exemption) is frozen for Veterans rated with a 50% or greater service-connected disability whose 2012 adjusted gross income (and any other owner, such as a spouse) does not exceed \$67,670 and who own and occupy the residence. The same benefit is available to members of the U.S. Armed Forces and the Louisiana National Guard (who owned and last occupied such property) who are killed in action, or who are missing in action, or are a prisoner of war for a period exceeding ninety days.

In 2010, new legislation passed that allowed for a constitutional amendment which, upon approval of the voters of Louisiana, would double the Homestead Exemption for Louisiana disabled Veterans who own their own home from \$75,000 to \$150,000. Check with your local tax assessor's office to see if this exemption is available in your parish.

In 2012, new legislation passed that allowed for the spouse of a deceased disabled Veteran to qualify for the Homestead Exemption (certain qualifications apply).

Military Retiree Pay Tax Exemption

Military retirement benefits are exempt from Louisiana state taxation.

Combat Pay Exemption

Military pay that is exempt from federal taxation, such as combat pay or hazardous duty pay, is also exempt from Louisiana state taxation.

East Carroll

407 2nd Street, Ste. 5 Old Courthouse Building Lake Providence, LA 71254 Phone: 318-559-4887

Fax: 318-559-3946 Email: dvatall@bellsouth.net

East Feliciana

4739 Hwy. 10 LA War Veterans Home Jackson, LA 70748

Phone: 225-634-5265/225-342-8998

Fax: 225-342-6022 Email: tdelatte@lwvh.com

Evangeline

205 Court Street, Ste. D Evangeline Parish Spec. Serv. Bldg.

Ville Platte, LA 70586 Phone: 337-363-3862 Fax: 337-363-3866

Email: evangeline101@centurytel.net

Franklin

210 Main Street Courthouse, 1st Floor Winnsboro, LA 71295

Phone: 318-435-2141 Fax: 318-435-2193

Email: bobbycollins@franklinparish.org

Grant

200 Main Street Grant Parish Courthouse Colfax, LA 71417 Phone: 318-627-3157

Email: paul.stewart@bellsouth.net

Iberia

121 W. Pershing Street Courthouse Annex, Room 308 New Iberia, LA 70560 Phone: 337-373-0001

Fax: 337-373-0088

Email: angeladoffoney@bellsouth.net

Office Hours & Staff

Thursday 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Jerry Martin

Office Hours & Staff

M-T-F

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Tammie Delatte

Office Hours & Staff

M-W-F; 2nd & 4th Thurs 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Cecil Joubert

Office Hours & Staff

M-W-F

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Bobby Collins

Office Hours & Staff

Wednesday 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Paul Stewart

Office Hours & Staff

M-W-F

8:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Angela Doffoney **Iberville**

58105 Court Street Iberville Council on Aging Plaquemine, LA 70764 Phone: 225-687-2714

Fax: 225-685-0188

Email: ldvaiberville@att.net

Jackson

322 6th Street, Courthouse Annex Jonesboro, LA 71251 Phone: 318-259-2100 Email: dvajack@bellsouth.net

Jefferson (East Bank)

1221 Elmwood Park Blvd. Yenni Bldg., Ste 337 Jefferson, LA 70121 Phone: 504-731-4580/4581

Fax: 504-731-4595

Email: dvameta@bellsouth.net

Jefferson (West Bank)

5001 West Bank Expressway, Ste. C1 Marrero, LA 70072 Phone: 504-349-5937/5938

Fax: 504-349-5939

Emails: dvajef@bellsouth.net or dvajef2@bellsouth.net

Jefferson Davis (Main)

810 S. Lake Arthur Dr. Jeff Davis Fairgrounds Jennings, LA 70546 Phone: 337-824-2829 Fax: 337-824-2829

Email: dvajenn@bellsouth.net

Jefferson Davis (SWLA Vet Home)

1610 Evangeline Hwy SW LA Veterans Home Jennings, LA 70546 Phone: 337-824-2829

Fax: 337-824-2829

Email: davjenn@bellsouth.net

Office Hours & Staff

M-T-TH-F (closed Wed) 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Glenda Russ

Office Hours & Staff

Tues & Thurs 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Paul Doughty

Office Hours & Staff

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. William "Bill" Shoucair

Office Hours & Staff

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. David Holcombe

Office Hours & Staff

M-W-F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Joel Aguillard

Office Hours & Staff

Tues & Thurs 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Joel Aguillard

> 49 12

Regional Military Museum 1154 Barrow Street Houma, LA 70360 (985) 873-8200

regionalmilitarymuseum.com

Open Monday - Friday 10am-4pm Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day

> **Old Arsenal Museum** 900 State Capitol Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70802 (225) 342-0401

sos.louisiana/gov/museums

Open Tues-Sat 9am-4pm

LA Military Hall of Fame Museum 911 Revis Sirmon Loop Abbeville, LA 70510 (337) 898-9645

Open Thurs—Sat 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

8th Air Force Museum 88 Shreveport Road Barksdale AFB, LA 71110 (318) 456-4171 8afmuseum.com

Open daily April-December, 9:30am-4pm January-March, 9:30am-4pm, Mon-Sat Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day



Veterans Museums

National World War II Museum 945 Magazine Street New Orleans, LA 70130 (504) 527-6012

nationalww2museum.org

Open daily 9am-5pm Closed Mardi Gras Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

> USS KIDD and Veterans Memorial 305 South River Road Baton Rouge, LA 70802 (225) 342-1942

> > info@usskidd.com

Open daily 9am-5pm Closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

> Louisiana Military Museum 201 Memorial Drive Ruston, LA 71270 (318) 251-5099

Open M-F 10 am-6:30pm; Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 1pm-5pm Free Admission

> Chennault Aviation Museum 701 Kansas Lane Monroe, LA 71203 (318) 362-5540

Open M-F, 9am-4:30pm; Sat and Sun, 1pm-4:30pm Closed on Louisiana State holidays Free Admission

Lafavette

2100 Jefferson Street War Memorial Bldg., Room 403B Lafavette, LA 70501

Phone: 337-262-5628 Fax: 337-262-1225

Emails: john hansen@bellsouth.net or stevenstrowder@bellsouth.net

Lafourche (Main)

303 W. Third Street Thibodaux LA 70301 Phone: 985-447-0968

Fax: 985-449-5104

Email: lafourcheldva@vetaffairs.la.gov

Lafourche (Itinerant 1)

16241 East Main Street S. Lafourche Library Bldg. Cut Off, LA 70345

Phone: 985-632-5566

Email: lafourcheldva@vetaffairs.la.gov

Lafourche (Itinerant 2)

720 Crescent Ave. Lockport Library Lockport, LA 70374

Email: lafourcheldva@vetaffairs.la.gov

LaSalle

First & Second Streets Courthouse, 1st Floor Jena, LA 71342

Phone: 318-992-2259 Email: kfscott@bellsouth.net

Lincoln

307 Homer Street, 2nd Floor Ruston, LA 71270 Phone: 318-251-4142

Email: dvarust@bellsouth.net

Livingston

8393 Florida Blvd. Denham Springs, LA 70726 Phone: 225-664-2950 Fax: 225-664-2949

Email: billybrewer@bellsouth.net

Office Hours & Staff

Office Hours & Staff

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

M through F

John Hansen

Steve Strowder

M-W-Th-F

8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Desiree Jones

Office Hours & Staff

1st and 3rd Tuesday 9:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Desiree Jones

Office Hours & Staff

2nd & 4th Tuesday 9:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Desiree Jones

Office Hours & Staff

Tues & Thurs 8:45 a.m.—3:45 p.m.

Kay Scott

Office Hours & Staff

M-W-F

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Richard "Shane" Renwick

Office Hours & Staff

M-T-TH-F (closed Wed) 7:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Billy Brewer

13

48

Madison

402 E. Green Street Tallulah, LA 71282 Phone: 318-574-3870 Fax: 318-574-8786

Email: dvatall@bellsouth.net

Morehouse

129 N. Franklin Street Bastrop, LA 71220 Phone: 318-283-0841 Fax: 318-283-0891

Email: dvabas@bellsouth.net

Natchitoches

203 St. Denis Street Natchitoches, LA 71457 Phone: 318-357-3106 Fax: 318-357-2428

Email: dvanatc@bellsouth.net

Orleans

517 N. Rampart Street New Orleans, LA 70112 Phone: 504-658-2930 Fax: 504-658-2931 Email: dvaorleans@att.net

Ouachita

704 Cypress Street State Agricultural Bldg. West Monroe, LA 71291 Phone: 318-362-5137/3002 Fax: 318-362-3088

Email: dvaouac@bellsouth.net

Plaquemines 212 Avenue G

Belle Chase, LA 70037 Email: vso@sbpg.net

Pointe Coupee

206 Court Street New Roads, LA 70760 Phone: 225-638-5535 Fax: 225-638-5964

Email: pointecoupeepari@bellsouth.net

Office Hours & Staff

M-T-Th-F (Closed Wed) 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Jerry Martin

Office Hours & Staff

M-W-F

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Gary L. Haas

Office Hours & Staff

M-W-Th-F (closed Tues)
Grant Bowden

Office Hours & Staff

M through F 8:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Lloyd Cole

Office Hours & Staff

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Paul Fontenot Robert Hennington

Office Hours & Staff

Tuesday 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Kenneth Wichterich

Office Hours & Staff

Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Tammie Delatte

Military Funeral Honors

Based on available resources, funeral honors may be available and may include the presence of military members, folding and presentation of the flag, firing details, and the sounding of Taps.

Military Funeral Honors are available through Fort Polk Casualty Assistance upon request and contingent upon availability.

To contact Fort Polk CAC:

Phone: 337-531-6316/1292 Toll free: 888-474-0377 Fax: 337-531-1770

E-mail: steve.humphries@US.army.mil Casualty@Polk.Army.mil

Business hours: 8:30-4:00 M-F 1:00-2:00 S/SUN

Military Funeral Honors are also available through certain Veteran Service Organizations (VSO), please contact your local VSO for more information.

You may also work with your local funeral home director to make arrangements for military funeral honors.

Eligibility for Burial in Louisiana State Veterans Cemeteries

The military service requirement for burial in Louisiana state Veterans cemeteries must be in accordance with the eligibility standards as set by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration. At a minimum, one must meet one of the following:

- Veteran was discharged from active-duty under other than dishonorable conditions
- Veteran died while serving on active-duty
- Veteran served at least 20 years in the National Guard or Reserves and qualified for military retirement pay (or would have qualified, except death occurred before age 60)

Spouses and dependent children of Veterans who were eligible for burial may also be interred in state Veterans cemeteries. Burial benefits may include the following: gravesites for casket or cremation remains, headstones or markers, opening and closing of the graves, and continued perpetual care.

Burial of an eligible Veteran is at no cost to the Veteran. A fee is charged at the time of interment for spouses and dependent children of eligible Veterans.

Rapides

730 Washington Street Alexandria, LA 71301 Phone: 318-487-5743 Fax: 318-484-2238

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Thomas Lindsay

Office Hours & Staff

Paul Stewart

M through F

Emails: tlindsayjr@bellsouth.net or paul.stewart@bellsouth.net

Red River

2010 Red Oak Rd., Courthouse Annex Coushatta, LA 71019 Phone: 318-932-4911

Email: dvanatc@bellsouth.net

Office Hours & Staff

Tuesday

8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. GrantBowden

Richland

708 Julia Street Courthouse Basement Rayville, LA 71269 Phone: 318-728-2472

Fax: 318-728-0189

Email: bobbycollins@franklinparish.org

Office Hours & Staff

Tuesday & Thursday 8:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. **Bobby Collins**

Sabine

400 Capital Street Courthouse, 1st Floor Many, LA 71449 Phone: 318-256-4131

Fax: 318-256-4169

Email: dvasabi@bellsouth.net

Office Hours & Staff

M-W-F

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Pamela Russell

St. Bernard

8201 W. Judge Perez Dr. Chalmette, LA 70043 Phone: 504-355-4469 Fax: 504-355-4469 Email: vso@sbpg.net

Office Hours & Staff

M-W-Th-F (closed Tues) 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Kenneth Wichterich

St. Charles

15045 River Road Parish Courthouse, Room 276 Hahnville, LA 70057

Phone: 985-783-2221

Email: streetc52@yahoo.com

Office Hours & Staff

Tuesday through Friday 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Craig Street

St. Helena

53 N. 2nd Street Greensburg, LA 70441 Phone: 225-222-6202

Email: billybrewer@bellsouth.net

St. James

2430 Louisiana Avenue Lutcher, LA 70071 Phone: 225-869-3643

Email: dudley.leblanc@stjamesla.com

St. John the Baptist

4080 W. Airline SE LA Veterans Home Reserve, LA

Phone: 985-479-4080 Fax: 985-479-4090

Email: cstreet@selwvh.com

St. Landry (Main)

1065 Hwy 759 Opelousas, LA 70570 Phone: 337-948-0238 Fax: 337-942-0375

Emails: janicembrown@bellsouth.net or kenwalterhouse@bellsouth.net

St. Landry (Itinerant)

Corner of 3rd & Park Ave. Wednesday American Legion Bldg. Eunice, LA 70535 Janice Brown Phone: 337-457-5706 Ken Walterhouse

Emails: janicembrown@bellsouth.net or kenwalterhouse@bellsouth.net

St. Martin

101 Berard Street Breaux Bridge, LA 70517 Phone: 337-332-8316

Fax: 337-507-3286

Email: briankmartin@bellsouth.net

St. Mary (Main)

500 Main Street, Room 102 Franklin, LA 70538 Phone: 337-828-5047

Fax: 337-828-7099

Office Hours & Staff

Wednesday 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Billy Brewer

Office Hours & Staff

Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m. **Dudley LeBlanc**

Office Hours & Staff

M-W-TH

8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Craig Street

Office Hours & Staff

M-T-Th-F (closed Wed) 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Janice Brown Ken Walterhouse

Office Hours & Staff

9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Office Hours & Staff Tuesday & Thursday

9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Brian Martin

Office Hours & Staff

M-T-Th-F (closed Wed) 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Andetrie Pharr

16



Veterans Cemeteries

LDVA Veterans Cemeteries

vetaffairs.la.gov/veteran-cemeteries

1-877-GEAUX-VA

LDVA currently operates two Veterans cemeteries which provide interment for Veterans and their dependents in a dignified and compassionate manner, commemorating their service to our country.

- Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery located in Keithville near Shreveport
- Central Louisiana Veterans Cemetery located in Leesville
- Construction is underway at Southeast LA Veterans Cemetery in Slidell which is set to open in 2014

National Veterans Cemeteries

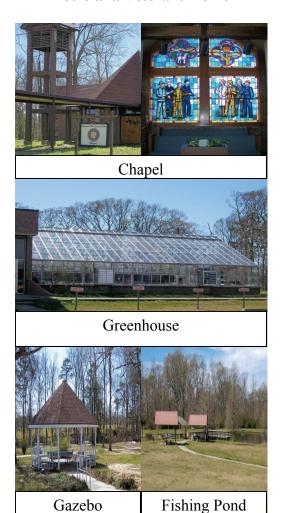
Alexandria National Cemetery Visitation Only (no new interments) 209 E. Shamrock Ave. Pineville, LA 71360

Baton Rouge National Cemetery Visitation Only (no new interments) 220 North 19th Street Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Port Hudson National Cemetery 20978 Port Hickey Road Zachary, LA 70791 (225) 654-3767

45

Louisiana Veterans Home



St. Mary (Itinerant)

302 Third Street Police Jury Building Morgan City, LA 70380

Phone: 985-385-7060

Office Hours & Staff

Wednesday 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Andetrie Pharr

St. Tammany (West)

510 E. Boston Street Old Court House Covington, LA 70433 Phone: 985-893-6201

M-W-F

8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Matthew Cole

Office Hours & Staff

Fax: 985-893-6299

Email: ldva.sttammanywest@yahoo.com

St. Tammany (East)

520 Old Spanish Trail, Ste. 2-E Slidell, LA 70458 Phone: 985-645-3500

Fax: 985-645-3528

Email: rolfklingenberg@yahoo.com

Office Hours & Staff

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Rolf Klingenberg

Tangipahoa (Main)

411 W. Coleman Ave. Social Service Bldg. Hammond, LA 70401 Phone: 985-542-3498

Fax: 985-543-4030 Email: dvalivi@bellsouth.net Office Hours & Staff

M-T-Th-F (closed Wed) 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Carrie Morgan

Tangipahoa (Itinerant 1)

Parish Council Office Courthouse Annex, 1st Floor Amite, LA 70422

Phone: 985-748-3211

Office Hours & Staff

Wednesday 8:30 a.m.—Noon Carrie Morgan

Email: dvalivi@bellsouth.net

Tangipahoa (Itinerant 2)

Avenue F Kentwood Community Center

Kentwood, LA

Email: dvalivi@bellsouth.net

Office Hours & Staff

Wednesday 1:00—3:00 p.m. Carrie Morgan

17 44

Tensas

205 Hancock Street Tensas Parish Police Jury Bldg. St. Joseph, LA 71366 Phone: 318-766-3542

Email: cckimball@bellsouth.net

Terrebonne

8026 Main Street, Ste. 106 Terrebonne Parish Gov. Towers Houma, LA 70360 Phone: 985-857-3626

Fax: 985-857-3783

Email: dvahouma@bellsouth.net

Union

303 C East Water Street, Courthouse Annex, Office #106 Farmerville, LA 71241 Phone: 318-368-3271 Fax: 318-368-1330

Email: dvarust@bellsouth.net

Vermilion

407 Charity St., Ste. 101 Abbeville, LA 70510 Phone: 337-893-2072 Fax: 337-893-5620.

Email: dvaabbe@bellsouth.net

Vernon

N. E. Corner, Courthouse Square Leesville, LA 71446 Phone: 337-238-6401 Fax: 337-238-7021

Email: dvaleesv@bellsouth.net

Washington (Main)

214 Arkansas Avenue City Hall Building Bogalusa, LA 70429 Phone: 985-732-6607 Fax: 985-732-6695 Email: wpldya@att.net

Office Hours & Staff

Tuesday 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Charles C. C. Kimball

Office Hours & Staff

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Terri Brown

Office Hours & Staff

Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Richard "Shane" Renwick

Office Hours & Staff

M-W-F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Stan Sinegal

Office Hours & Staff

M-W-F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Yurie Crockett

Office Hours & Staff

M-W-Th-F (closed Wed) 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. John Miller

18

Southeast Louisiana Veterans Home 4080 W. Airline Hwy Reserve, LA 70084

Ms. Charlie A. Kelly, Administrator Tel: (985) 479-4080 Fax: (985) 479-4090

This 156 bed facility opened on June 4, 2007 and is located on 20 acres in Reserve, Louisiana. Only 27 miles from New Orleans, it is conveniently located next to the St. John's Parish Senior Citizens Center and the VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic. The facility offers a variety of amenities including a fishing lake and a large chapel, in addition to complete medical care including skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, Alzheimer/Dementia care, and transportation services.



Northwest Louisiana Veterans Home 3130 Arthur Ray Teague Pkwy Bossier City, LA 71112

Mr. Byron N. Hines, Administrator Tel: (318) 741-2763 Fax: (318) 741-2783

This 156 bed state facility opened on April 9, 2007 and is located on 17 pristine acres in Bossier City, Louisiana. It offers a fishing lake with pier, a large chapel, and an activities building complete with a sports and game lounge as well as provides complete medical care including skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, Alzheimer/Dementia care, and transportation services.



Washington (Itinerant)

1215 11th Avenue Franklinton, LA 70438 Phone: 985-839-3497 Fax: 985-795-2468 Email: wpldva@att.net

Office Hours & Staff

Tuesday 8:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m. John Miller

Webster (Main)

119 Pine Street American Legion Memorial Home Minden, LA 71055

Phone: 318-371-3045 Fax: 318-371-3331

Email: dvawebs@bellsouth.net

Office Hours & Staff

M-T-Th-F (closed Wed) 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Charles Jackson

Webster (Itinerant)

City Police Building Springhill, LA 71075 Phone: 318-539-4211 Email: dvawebs@bellsouth.net

Office Hours & Staff

Wednesday 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Charles Jackson

West Baton Rouge

WBR Courthouse Annex Port Allen, LA 70767 Phone: 225-342-6686 Email: ldvaiberville@att.net

Office Hours & Staff

Wednesday 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Glenda Russ

West Carroll

706 East Main Street Oak Grove, LA 71263 Phone: 318-428-2671 Fax: 318-428-9767

Email: dvabas@bellsouthnet.net

Office Hours & Staff

Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Gary L. Haas

West Feliciana

4739 Hwy. 10 LA War Veterans Home Jackson, LA 70748

Phone: 225-634-5265\342-8998

Fax: 225-342-6022 Email: tdelatte@lwvh.com

Office Hours & Staff

M-T-F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Tammie Delatte

Winn

101 W. Main Street, Room 4 Phone: 318-628-4584 Phone: 318-628-2508

Email: dvawinn@bellsouth.net

Office Hours & Staff

Tuesday & Thursday 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Paul Doughty

19



Education Benefits

A variety of state and federal education benefits are available to Louisiana Veterans and their dependents.

Contact the Veterans Parish Service Office nearest you and/or the designated Veterans representative at the learning institute of your choosing to learn about specific programs and services that may be offered beyond those listed in this booklet.

Information on federal educational benefits can be found at 1-888-GI-BILL (1-888-442-4551) and at gibill.va.gov .

<u>POST-9/11 GI BILL</u>

Eligibility Requirements:

Only active-duty service performed after September 11, 2001 may be considered for determining eligibility for the benefit. The program's effective date is August 1, 2009; tuition and fees are paid directly to the institution, not to the student. To be eligible, a service member or Veteran must have:

 Served at least 90 aggregate days on active-duty after September 11, 2001, to earn 40% of the benefit, and served at least 36 months to earn 100% of the benefit;

Southwest Louisiana Veterans Home 1610 Evangeline Rd Jennings, LA 70546

Mr. Matthew Duhon, Administrator Tel: (337) 824-2829 Fax: (337) 824-2581

This 156 bed facility opened on November 14, 2004 and is located on 40 majestic acres in Jennings, Louisiana. Features include a $4 \frac{1}{2}$ acre fishing lake with pier, large chapel and an activities building complete with a sports and game lounge and provides complete medical care including skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, Alzheimer/Dementia care, and transportation services.



Northeast Louisiana Veterans Home 6700 Hwy 165 North Monroe, LA 71211

Mr. James "Ken" Houston, Administrator Tel: (318) 362-4206 Fax: (318) 362-4241

This 156 bed facility opened on December 3, 1996 and is located on 20 beautiful acres in north Monroe, Louisiana. It features a pecan grove, fishing pier, chapel, and huge picnic area and provides complete medical care including skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, Alzheimer/Dementia care, and transportation services.



- Been honorably discharged or been honorably discharged for a service-connected disability (and served 30 continuous days after September 11, 2001).
- Transfer of education entitlement benefits to spouse or dependent while on active duty

CHAPTER 33-9/11

As amended effective August 1, 2011 and October 1, 2011

- Pays all public costs including for Masters Degrees and Doctorate programs
- Private school costs capped at \$17,500 (except for Yellow Ribbon Program)
- Prorates housing allowance to training time (i.e. training at 3/4 time = 3/4 housing allowance)
- Pays housing allowance for those solely in distance learning programs
- Covers National Guard members on state duty (Title 32)
- Eliminates interval payments
- Expands coverage to non-college degree programs, on -the-job-training, apprenticeship, and flight
- Expand reimbursement to multiple licensing and certification tests
- Allows vocational rehabilitation participants to elect the higher housing allowance offered by Post 9/11 GI Bill if otherwise eligible for Post 9/11 GI Bill
- Pays books stipend to Active Duty members
- Pays housing allowance rate changes beginning in August in lieu of January
- Provides transfer of entitlement benefits to public health service and NOAA personnel

 21

The Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program (Yellow Ribbon Program)

This program allows institutions of higher learning (degree -granting institutions) in the United States to voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to fund tuition and fees. The institution can waive up to 50% of tuition and fees, and VA will match.

Who is eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program?

Only individuals entitled to the maximum benefits rate (based on service time post-9/11) may receive 100% Yellow Ribbon benefits..

Visit gibill.va.gov or call 1-888-442-4551 for additional information.

MONTGOMERY GI BILL —ACTIVE DUTY (CHAPTER 30)

This program provides up to 36 months of educational benefits to eligible Veterans and currently pays up to \$1,321 per month for a full-time student. It is for both degree and vocational programs, certificates or correspondence courses, independent study programs, apprenticeship/on-the-job training, flight training programs, licenses and certifications, and even remedial and refresher courses, under certain circumstances.

Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP)

Will offer 12 months of Montgomery GI Bill benefits for older, unemployed Veterans. Can be used to earn an associate degree, non-college degree, or certification, and training for a high demand occupation. Eligibility includes:

- Be at least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- Be unemployed (as defined by US Dept. of Labor)
- Not have a dishonorable discharge.
- Not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program.; Not be drawing VA compensation due to unemployability; Not be enrolled in a federal or state job training program.

Louisiana Veterans Home 4739 Hwy 10 Jackson, LA 70748

Mr. Jon Salter, Administrator Tel: (225) 634-5265 Fax: (225) 634-4057

This 161 bed facility is located on 82 serene acres and offers a variety of amenities including two fishing ponds, a greenhouse, a nature trail, and a chapel. The staff provides complete medical care including skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, Alzheimer/Dementia care, and transportation services.





Louisiana Veterans Homes

LDVA proudly operates five state-of-the-art Veterans Homes across the state. Each home offers a variety of services including:

- Long- and short-term care
- Rehabilitative therapies
- Alzheimer's and Intermediate care
- Skilled Nursing
- Mental Health services
- Centralized Pharmacy Services
- And more

Veterans, their spouses and Gold Star parents are eligible for admission into the Veterans Homes if they are deemed to meet basic qualifying criteria.

For a listing of admission requirements, facility locations and contact information, please visit vetaffairs.la.gov/veterans-homes or call toll free 1-877-GEAUX-VA.

Information on each facility is also located in the following pages in this guide.

MONTGOMERY GI BILL -SELECTED RESERVE (CHAPTER 1606)

The MGIB-SR program may be available to members of the Selected Reserve. The Selected Reserve includes the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, Army National Guard, and Air National Guard. The benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training, and correspondence courses. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances.

RESERVE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ("REAP," or "CHAPTER 1607")

REAP was established as a part of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005. It is a Department of Defense education benefit program designed to provide educational assistance to members of the Reserve components called or ordered to active duty in response to a war or national emergency (contingency operation) as declared by the President or Congress. This new program makes certain reservists who were activated for at least 90 days after September 11, 2001, eligible for education benefits (or increased benefits).

Veteran GI Bill Apprenticeship and OJT Program

Offers an alternative way to use VA (GI Bill) education and training benefits. When you are trained for a new job, you can receive monthly training benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in addition to your regular salary. For more information, please contact SAA at (225) 219-5000.

VEAP - ACTIVE DUTY (CHAPTER 32)

VEAP is available to those who first entered active-duty between January 1, 1977, and June 30, 1985, and elected to make contributions from military pay to participate in the education benefit program. Contributions are matched by the government on a \$2 for \$1 basis. The benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training, and correspondence courses. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances.

SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATION (CHAPTER 35)

DEA provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or who died while on active duty or as a result of a service related condition. The program offers up to 45 months of education benefits. The benefits may be used for degree programs, and on-the-job training. Spouses may take correspondence courses. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances.

IN-STATE TUITION STATUS

In-state tuition status is granted to Veterans and activeduty military who seek to attend any Louisiana public college or university. Contact the VA representative at your school of choice for more information. PATE NE PATE N

Outreach vetaffairs.la.gov 1-877-GEAUX-VA

Women Veterans

Special programs and services are available for women Veterans. To learn more about these programs or to become actively involved, contact LDVA at 1-877-GEAUX-VA or online at vetaffairs.la.gov.

Homeless Veterans

Transitional housing is provided, with access to services focused on education and training, employment, health care, obtaining Veterans benefits, counseling and legal assistance. Program operations entail an initial intake and assessment and case management plan development to provide an array of support services. To apply for assistance or to receive additional information, please contact your local LDVA Veterans Parish Service Office (full listing enclosed).

Incarcerated Veterans

LDVA is committed to providing services to incarcerated Veterans and collaborates with the Louisiana Department of Corrections and VA in providing post-release benefits counseling, training and employment opportunities.

VA Guaranteed Home Loans

May be used by Veterans and unmarried surviving spouses of those who died of a service-connected disease or disability, to purchase or refinance a home.

Federal VA Compensation and Pension

vba.va.gov 1-800-827-1000

The Veterans Benefits Administration provides information on compensation and pension as well as education, vocational rehabilitation, home loans, survivor benefits, and life insurance. Benefit information for returning Veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, benefit fact sheets, and a federal benefits booklet for Veterans and dependents are available.

LOUISIANA'S TITLE 29 DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

This state benefit provides educational assistance to surviving spouses of certain deceased Veterans (certain restrictions apply). The benefit also includes children of Veterans rated with a 100% service-connected disability. In 1997, the benefit was amended to include children of Veterans rated with at least a 90% service-connected disability. In 1999, the benefit was amended again to include children of Veterans rated with a 100% service-connected disability due to individual un-employability.

LA NATIONAL GUARD TUITION EXEMPTION

Members are exempt from tuition at any statefunded college, university, or vocational/technical school for five years or a bachelor's degree, whichever comes first. For more information, please visit la.ngb.army.mil, or call 1-800-GOGUARD.

VA WORK STUDY PROGRAM

Full-time or 3/4 – time students in a college degree program or a vocational or professional program can earn while they learn with a VA Work Study allowance. The VA Work Study allowance is available to persons training under: The Post -9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33), Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (Chapter 30), Vocational Rehabilitation (Chapter 31), VEAP (Chapter 32), Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 35), and Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606 and 1607).



Employment Assistance

Business and Career Solution Centers

laworks.net 1-800-259-5154

The Louisiana Workforce Commission operates local business and career solution centers to assist Veterans in finding employment and making career choices. For a complete listing of centers, go to laworks.net. For a complete staff listing of Veterans services and staff, go to: http://www.laworks.net/WorkforceDev/VeteransServices/Vet_Main.asp

Federal VETBIZ

vetbiz.gov 1-866-584-2344

VA's Center for Veterans Enterprise helps
Veterans interested in forming or expanding
small businesses and helps VA contracting
offices identify Veteran-owned small businesses.
For more information, visit vetbiz.gov or call
toll-free 1-866-584-2344.

Disability Compensation

A payment to Veterans who are disabled by injury or disease incurred, or aggravated as a result of military service.

Pension

Financial support for Veterans with limited income when they have 90 days or more of active-duty military service, one day of which was during a wartime period. To qualify, a Veteran must be permanently and totally disabled for reasons traceable neither to military service nor to willful misconduct or must be over 65 years of age. The Veteran must have been discharged from active-duty service under conditions other than dishonorable.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Employment assistance, training, and education are available for Veterans who were released from service under conditions other than dishonorable and have service connected disabilities.

Health Care Benefits

Medical treatment and hospital care for veterans with service connected disabilities and others who meet VA eligibility criteria.

Education Benefits

Post 9-11 GI Bill/Montgomery GI Bill benefits for former active-duty service persons and eligible members of the Reserve Components.

Burial Benefits

Including burial in state or federal Veterans' cemeteries. Headstones, markers or medallions may be provided for burials in private cemeteries.



Federal Benefits

Claims Assistance

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers a variety of benefits including education, compensation, pension, housing, and health care. LDVA maintains a claims assistance office at the VA Regional Office in New Orleans as well as Veterans Parish Service Offices across the state. LDVA staff advise and assist Louisiana Veterans and their families in filing and pursuing claims with the federal VA in a number of ways including:

- Identifying what documentation is needed to support the best possible chance of having a VA claim approved
- Monitoring the claim as it is processed and interceding as needed if problems arise.
- Explain and clarify VA procedures as they apply to claims
- If a Veteran's claim is denied by the VA and the Veteran disagrees with the denial, LDVA staff will assist the Veteran through the appeals process.

A listing of the types of benefits available through VA can be found on the next page.

LAVETBIZ

vetaffairs.la.gov 1-877-GEAUX-VA

LAVETBIZ is a business initiative established to provide additional opportunities for Louisiana based Veteran and service connected disabled Veteranowned small business owners when they seek to work with the State of Louisiana. LAVETBIZ is supported by compliance mandates which are enforced through the Louisiana Division of Administration. Please contact LDVA to learn more about this program: vetaffairs.la.gov or call toll free 1-877-GEAUX-VA.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Chapter 31)

vba.va.gov/bln/vre/vrs.htm 1-888-442-4551

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program helps Veterans with service-connected disabilities prepare for, find, and keep jobs. For Veterans with service-connected disabilities so severe that they cannot immediately consider work, the program offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible.

Service-connected or non-military disabling condition(s), contact the local Veterans employment representative (LVER) or disabled veterans out-reach specialist (DVOP). For a listing of locations, go to http://www.lwc.la.gov (veterans services) or http://www.laworks.net/Downloads/WFD/Vet_StaffLocations.pdf .



Uniformed Services Employment and

Reemployment Rights Act

dol.gov/vets/programs/userra

Phone: 225-389-0339 FAX (225) 342-3152

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) is a federal statute that provides job protections and employment rights to military service personnel who serve on military duty.

Veterans Employment and Training Service
(VETS) staff provides technical assistance to
Veterans, National Guard members, and
Reservists who experience conflicts between
their military commitments and civilian
employment. VETS staff also assist employers by
providing information about the USERRA statute
and explaining employer and employee
responsibilities as well as military leave policies.
In addition, the statute also covers
discrimination in hiring due to the service
member's military obligation.
(continued on next page)

Participants who accept a stipend or bonus must agree to teach for three years in districts/ schools that serve a qualifying percentage of students from low-income families and must obtain licensure/certification within that time frame.

Teacher Certification

Louisiana's Department of Education Teacher Preparation site, teachlouisiana.net, offers a variety of pathways that lead to a teaching career in Louisiana and offers the ability to view a listing of Louisiana's Approved Teacher Preparation Programs and listed positions.

Individuals who have previously earned a bachelor's degree may consider enrolling in an alternative certification program through which one may teach and work toward a Louisiana teaching certificate.

Prerequisites of each alternative teaching preparation program differ, but each program type requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree. Since Praxis exams are required for state certification, the exams are part of the admission standards as well as the completion standards of alternative certification programs. See ets.org/praxis for more information.

Complete details on program eligibility can be accessed at proudtoserveagain.com or by calling toll free 1-800-761-3012.



Troops to Teachers

proudtoserveagain.com 1-800-761-3012

Troops to Teachers (TTT) is a U.S. Department of Education and Department of Defense program managed by the Defense Activity for Non Traditional Education Support (DANTES) with support offices in states across the country. The primary objective is to help recruit quality teachers for schools that serve students from low-income families and to relieve teacher shortages, especially in math, science, special education, and other critical subject areas.

TTT provides information, advice and funding to eligible Veterans, Reservists, and active-duty personnel who are about to leave active service and want to pursue teaching as a second career. In Louisiana, the state TTT office operates under LDVA.

Financial assistance may be in the form of stipends of up to \$5,000 to help pay for teacher certification programs or bonuses of \$10,000 for those who commit to teach in schools serving a high percentage of students from low-income families. (continued on next page)

When an alleged violation of the USERRA statute exists, a complaint may be filed with VETS. An investigation is conducted, and mediation is attempted in an effort to formally resolve the issue.

To qualify for a claim, the uniformed service member must:

- Provide advance notice of his military leave of absence to his employer and meet the duration of military service requirements
- Serve in the military under honorable conditions
- Request reinstatement within the prescribed time limit

For more information regarding USERRA, please visit: dol.gov/vets/programs/userra.

Assistance can be provided by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves at 1-800-336-4590 or the U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS), located in the Louisiana Workforce Commission Administration Building, Room 184, at 1001 North 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802.

> Phone: 225-389-0339 Fax: 225 - 342-3152

State and Federal Civil Service Preference

State Civil Service

Louisiana state and city civil service departments award a five-point preference in original appointment to Veterans who served honorably U.S. Armed Forces.

State and city civil service departments award a ten-point preference to each honorably discharged service-connected disabled Veteran.

Spouses of Veterans who are rated VA unemployable as well as un-remarried widows of deceased Veterans and Gold Star parents are also eligible for this preference.

Preferences may be given only to persons who have attained at least the minimum score required on each test and who has received at least the minimum rating required for eligibility.

The Veterans preference also extends to layoffs over other non-Veteran employees with equal lengths of service and efficiency ratings.

For more information, please contact Louisiana Civil Service at www.civilservice.la.gov or by calling toll free 1-866-783-5462.

Federal Civil Service

Federal law also grants a 5-and 10-point preference to Veterans applying for federal jobs. The requirements are similar to the state requirements above. For specific information, please visit the federal Office of Personnel Management Web site at: http://www.opm.gov/veterans/html/vetguide.asp#2 or call (202) 606-1800.

Veterans as Apprentices laworks.net

The Louisiana Workforce Commission, Apprenticeship Division, provides information on Louisiana apprenticeship programs. Interested parties should call 225-342-3111

or visit http://www.laworks.net/ ApprenticeshiAPP_MainMenu.asp.

Transfer of Military Skills to Civilian Employment

HB 732/Act 276 of the 2012 LA Legislative Session states that individuals with military training and experience will be granted professional licensure and/or certification when the service member has been awarded a military occupational specialty and performance in that specialty is at a level equal to or exceeding the requirements for said license and/or certification (other provisions may apply).

The same also allows for spouses of individuals with military training and experience will be granted a license, certification or registration to lawfully practice an occupation by the appropriate professional or occupational licensing board when the spouse meets certain conditions.

Contact the certifying board related to your profession for more information.